

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JANICE MIRIKITANI

#### HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 13, 2021

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise today, along with Bay Area Representatives BARBARA LEE and JACKIE SPEIER, to pay tribute to the late Janice Mirikitani: a gifted poet and a beacon of resilience for so many in America. Janice was a force for social justice, who overcame great adversity to empower and inspire so many in the Bay Area and beyond through her beautiful art and her leadership of the Glide Foundation. Her passing is a great loss to San Francisco and to our nation.

Janice's poetry turned personal pain into purpose. Indeed, she experienced a childhood marked by hardship: undergoing the national shame of internment as a young girl and then years of trauma as a young woman. Janice faced these challenges directly in her intimate and powerful poems. Her extraordinary courage and tenacity shine through in her writings on the horrors of war, the scourge of sexual abuse and the stain of institutional racism, moving and inspiring all who read them. And as co-founder and editor of the first Asian American literary magazine, *Aion*, she lifted up more voices like hers: women, people of color and underserved communities, who have too often been silenced.

Janice was deeply committed to her faith and to our Bay Area community. Alongside her beloved husband Reverend Cecil Williams, who was her partner not only in marriage but in service, she helped launch and lead the Glide Foundation. This faith-based social justice mission helped transform the lives of countless families in need, by providing essential health, nutrition and housing services. That the Foundation today, decades after its founding, embodies more strongly than ever Janice's powerful vision of "a radically inclusive, just and loving community" is a testament to her enduring legacy.

In a note sent to the Glide community announcing her passing, the Foundation's President and CEO wrote: "She spoke her truth and inspired others to accept and celebrate themselves, each other, and all our differences." Indeed, Janice's leadership reflected the best of San Francisco: the vibrancy of our city, the pride in our diversity and the strength of our community.

Janice Mirikitani was a proud Californian: born in Stockton, educated at the University of California, Los Angeles and San Francisco State University, working in San Francisco's Tenderloin neighborhood for many years and calling the Bay Area home for nearly her entire life.

For her creativity and brilliance, Janice received the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce Lifetime Achievement Ebbie Award, an American Book Lifetime Achievement Award for Literature, and a Governor and First Lady's

Conference on Women and Families Minerva Award. She also earned the privilege of serving as the second poet laureate of San Francisco.

May it be a comfort to her dear husband Cecil, her loving daughter Tianne and all their loved ones that so many San Franciscans—and Americans across the nation—join them in prayer during this sad time, and that the beauty, wisdom and courage of her art will endure for generations to come.

### CONGRATULATING THE Y QUAD CITIES ROW TEAM FOR WINNING THEIR 7TH STRAIGHT TITLE AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

#### HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 13, 2021

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Y Quad Cities Row team for winning their 7th straight title at the national level.

The Y Quad Cities Row team consisting of Ava Satterfield, Olivia Meskan, Ella Saunders and Elizabeth Tessen finished first in the girl's quadruple sculls, winning their 7th consecutive national title. Their historic reign began in 2014 but suddenly came to a halt as the pandemic hit Illinois. The Y Quad Cities Row team is the first team ever in the history of the event to place 1st and 2nd. As a former athlete, I understand the amount of hard work and commitment it takes to pull off such an amazing feat. I am proud there is such young talent in our district, and happy to see them represent the Quad Cities so well throughout the state and country.

It is because of student leaders such as Ava, Olivia, Ella, and Elizabeth that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally recognize them for winning their 7th consecutive national title in rowing.

### RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF EMBRA JACKSON

#### HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 13, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and service of Embra Jackson, a member of the Montford Point Marines. Mr. Jackson fought bravely alongside twenty thousand African American men who joined the armed forces during World War II. Embra and countless other African American men served their country overseas while the fight for civil rights continued at home.

Embra completed basic training at Montford Point Camp, North Carolina, which remained segregated. He fought for the United States in

the Pacific, and many of his fellow Marines continued their service through the wars in Korea and Vietnam.

The Montford Point veterans made an invaluable impact on the rich history of the Marine Corps. Their efforts at home and abroad aided President Truman in his 1948 decision to desegregate the military. After 64 years, the 112th Congress awarded the Montford Point Marines the Congressional Gold Medal for patriotism and distinguished achievement.

I am grateful for Embra Jackson's lifetime of service to this great nation and the United States Marine Corps.

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER WHO PIONEERED SUBMARINE SONAR SYSTEMS, COMMUNITY LEADER AND ACTIVIST, VETERAN, PHOTOJOURNALIST, FAMILY PATRIARCH, AND FIRST BLACK ELECTED OFFICIAL IN ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

#### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 13, 2021

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as a senior member of this body and the Committee on the Judiciary, as a witness to some of the revolutionary social and political changes in American life and society, and as a legislator dedicated to advancing public policies that improve the quality of life for all Americans and that make equality of opportunity and equal justice for all not just a virtue but a fact of American life, I rise to pay tribute to an unsung hero of the American Experiment, Jesse Frank Berry, who died at his home in Rockville, Maryland on Monday, August 9, 2021, at the age of 88.

In these tumultuous days of crisis and challenge, Members of Congress know well, perhaps better than most, how blessed our nation is to have such exceptional men and women who will go on to become leaders in their local communities, states, and the nation in the areas of business, education, law, government, philanthropy, the arts and culture, and the military.

We know this because we see them and benefit from their contributions every day as they serve the American people in our offices doing amazing work as congressional staff members.

What produces such persons and inspires them to want to do what they do and to do it so well?

Madam Speaker, as Occam's razor posits, the answer is pretty simple and straightforward; they come from all over the nation, and they are produced and nurtured and inspired by their first role-models and heroes: their mothers and fathers.

The life of Jesse Frank Berry, the father of my Chief Counsel, illustrates this perfectly, and I want to share briefly with all Members

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